

UNITED STATES

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 4/5/61

FROM : D. C. Morrell

SUBJECT: MR. [REDACTED]

## INQUIRY REGARDING JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

By letter dated 4/2/61, captioned individual wrote to the Director expressing his consternation over criticism being leveled against the John Birch Society. He enclosed several examples which were typical of items which are appearing in the press, including the highly controversial column by [REDACTED] which appeared in the April 1 edition of the Los Angeles Examiner. The Bureau is aware of the latter item which links Mr. Hoover with the growing criticism of the Society.

Bufiles contain no record concerning Mr. [REDACTED]. The tenor of his letter is respectful and he indicates that his concern is very genuine. He makes no attempt to argue and berate the Director as have some recent writers on the subject of the John Birch Society.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the attached letter be forwarded to Mr. [REDACTED] wherein he is given the usual reply to those seeking Bureau opinion of an organization, and including a copy of the April, 1961, LEB Introduction to answer his question about the "vigilante action."

\* LAW ENFORCEMENT  
BULLETIN

Enclosure

4-5-61

HHA:njs  
(2)

51 APR 18 1961

EX-139

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-4-86 BY [REDACTED]

4/5/61  
 Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Callahan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

b6  
b7c

REC-65  
 62-104401-107  
 19 APR 11 1961  
 13

b6  
b7c

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach

DATE: 4-4-61

FROM : D. C. Morrell

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

PUBLISHER

PAMPA, TEXAS, DAILY NEWS  
PAMPA, TEXAS

Tolson \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parsons \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mohr \_\_\_\_\_  
 Belmont \_\_\_\_\_  
 Casper \_\_\_\_\_  
 Conrad \_\_\_\_\_  
 DeLoach \_\_\_\_\_  
 Evans \_\_\_\_\_  
 Malone \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rosen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tavel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Trotter \_\_\_\_\_  
 W.C. Sullivan \_\_\_\_\_  
 Tele. Room \_\_\_\_\_  
 Ingram \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gandy \_\_\_\_\_

Captioned individual wired the Director on March 31 inquiring as to whether there was any connection between the April Law Enforcement Bulletin introduction and the John Birch Society. By telegram dated April 1, [REDACTED] was advised that Mr. Hoover's message did not mention any specific group since it is not within the province of the FBI to evaluate organizations of any type. [REDACTED] wired the Director again on April 3 complaining that the wire services directly attribute remarks about vigilante action to the Birch Society. [REDACTED] said this could do great damage to many innocent people who are the staunchest supporters of the Director and the Bureau. He wanted to know how this could be ignored and asked that this "smear" not go unchallenged.

[REDACTED] was not identifiable in Bufiles and we have had no recent correspondence with his newspaper.

Apparently, [REDACTED] is trying to exert pressure on the Director to force him to make a public statement in favor of the John Birch Society. No benefit can possibly be derived from entering into a controversy with him. He refuses to accept the statement that the Society was not being singled out by the Director.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that [REDACTED] telegram not be acknowledged.

HHA:bew (2)

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
 HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
 DATE 10/26/00 BY [REDACTED]

55 APR 18 1961

APR 10 1961  
 second  
 Right  
 4/4  
 HHA  
 CONFIDENTIAL

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b7Cb6  
b7C

FBI

18512

Date: 4/11/61

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL \_\_\_\_\_  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, NEW YORK (62-11243)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
IS-X

Re NY airtel 4/7/61.

Mrs. [redacted] who  
is well known to the Bureau, furnished the following  
information on 4/11/61 to SA [redacted]

"The New Bedford Standard-Times" (New Bedford Mass.)  
4/7/61, carried an article under the heading, "American  
Institute (AI) To Hear JOHN NOBLE". The article stated that  
NOBLE would speak at 2:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon at John  
Hancock Hall under the auspices of the AI.

The article reported that AI officials have pointed  
out that although AI programs are often recommended by the  
John Birch Society (JBS), the AI speakers are not necessarily  
members of the JBS.

Further down in the article, it was indicated that  
Mrs. [redacted] was not a member of the JBS and that HERBERT  
PHILBRICK was president of the AI.

Mrs. [redacted] said that she would drop the issue  
(that is, that the "Standard-Times" carry a statement that she  
was not a member of the JBS) at this point. However, in the  
future she intends to be very careful and circumspect in her  
dealings with [redacted] the "Standard-Times".

- 4 - Bureau (RM) - 1cc RM 1259  
1 - 100-341171 [redacted] REC-7  
1 - Boston (RM) (Info)  
1 - New York (62-11243)

AS/jem

(7)

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

Per \_\_\_\_\_

b6  
b7Cb6  
b7C

62-104401-1052

APR 12 1961

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/14/61

FROM : SAC, RICHMOND (100-9991)

SUBJECT: THE JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
INFORMATION CONCERNING -  
INTERNAL SECURITY

Re SAC Letters 59-13 and 60-5 which instruct the Bureau be notified in the event any chapters of this society are organized within a field division territory.

The Richmond, Virginia, newspaper, the Richmond News Leader, in its issue of April 10, 1961, contained an article on captioned organization and reported comments made by one [redacted] Virginia, identified in the article as full-time field representative for the organization in Virginia.

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b7C

In a previous issue of the Richmond Times Dispatch newspaper, [redacted] was identified as a former State Department Historian and he advised that chapters of this organization had been established in Alexandria, Fairfax County and Charlottesville, Virginia.

The above is submitted for the information and completion of the Bureau file.

2 - Bureau (REGISTERED MAIL)

1 - Richmond

RET: iwp

(3)

REC-101

REC-3762-104401-1056

APR 17 1961

INT. SEC.

66 APR 20 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-3-86

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b7C

62-104401-1065

**CHANGED TO**

62-108356- X2

DEC 51962

MX - VMC

q

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-8-86 BY [redacted]

b6  
b7C

FBI

Date: 3/28/61

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)

FROM : SAC, DALLAS (100-10402)

RE : JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
MISCELLANEOUS -  
INFORMATION CONCERNING

REC-72

Enclosed for the Bureau are eight copies of a letterhead memorandum dated 3/28/61, suitable for dissemination concerning klan infiltration in the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY. Also a copy of an article which appeared in the "Dallas Times Herald," dated 3/26/61, is also enclosed in which [redacted] was identified as a member of the JBS. (JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY)

T-1 in the enclosed letterhead memorandum is [redacted]  
[redacted] T-2 is [redacted] T-3 is [redacted] and T-4 is the Intelligence Unit of the Dallas Police Department.

Careful consideration has been given to each source concealed and T symbols were utilized only in those instances where the identities of the sources must be concealed.

The Dallas Office will remain alert to any further attempts by klansmen or former klansmen to join and utilize the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY.

LYNUM

3 - Bureau (encs-9) (RM)  
1 - Dallas  
JPH:jeg  
(4)

ENCLOSURE

REC-72

APR 14 1961

Approved: [Signature]

Special Agent in Charge

Sent

M

Per

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Evans	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. Wood	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Ingram	
Miss Gandy	

b6  
b7c



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

Dallas, Texas  
March 28, 1961

Re: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

An article appeared in the "Dallas Times Herald," a daily Dallas newspaper dated March 26, 1961. In this article [redacted] identified himself as a member of the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY (JBS). [redacted] in this article, stated that there are ten chapters of the society in the Dallas area with fifteen to thirty members each, and the society has gotten four times larger than when he joined it in January. This article described how [redacted] devotes much of his time to work of the JBS and his fight against the international communistic plot. b6 b7C

On March 8, 1961, Dallas Confidential Informant T-1, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that a meeting of the White Citizens Council of Dallas County was held in Room 4 of the Baker Hotel, Dallas, on March 7, 1961. There were seven men and three women present, and of the men present four were former members of the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. Among the former klansmen present was [redacted]

[redacted] in Dallas. [redacted] gave a talk on the JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY, of which he, [redacted] is a prominent member. [redacted] told the group that the JBS worked in small groups. [redacted] praised the JBS in that in the past anyone who fought integration had run into a brick wall but said this society, without mentioning integration, only would be fighting communism. [redacted] said actually communism is the "root of it all," indicating he meant fighting communism is also fighting integration. [redacted] said the JBS never meets in the same place and each member has a list of ten things that he is supposed to do each month. These things include writing letters to Congressmen and other prominent officials, never using the JBS name on anything but signing only the individual's name when trying to push through some item or effort. [redacted] said JBS in this manner is driving the communists crazy. b6 b7C

[redacted] said the society is acting in all fifty states and the main "push" at the present time is getting windshield and bumper stickers on as many cars as possible, reading, "Impeach Earl Warren."

ENCLOSURE

62-104401-1066

Re: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY

On November 2, 1960, Dallas Confidential Informant T-2, who has furnished reliable information in the past, made available a letterhead of the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, which set forth a list of officers for Rylie No. 2 Klavern, Dallas, Texas. on November 30, 1957, [redacted] was listed as [redacted] Dallas T-2 also made available a list of officers for Dallas Klavern No. 66 of the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, dated November 29, 1958, which listed [redacted]

On December 12, 1957, Dallas Confidential Informant T-3, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., Realm of Texas, chartered its first klavern in Rylie, Texas, in November 1957. This organization used the name Soldiers of the Flaming Sword as a cover name when approaching an individual concerning membership in the Ku Klux Klan, and only after they determined that this person was safe did they reveal the true identity of this organization to be the Ku Klux Klan. b6 b7C

On October 5, 1958, Dallas T-1 advised that in June of 1958, [redacted] the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc., broke away from that organization and formed the Original Knights of the Ku Klux Klan (OKKKK). However, on October 4, 1958, [redacted] of College Park, Georgia, the Imperial Wizard of the U. S. Klans, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, visited Dallas, at which time most of the klansmen in Dallas rejoined the U. S. Klans, having become disgusted with [redacted] over handling of klans funds. Tex

On August 19, 1959, Dallas Confidential Informant T-4, who has furnished reliable information in the past, advised that as of August 19, 1959, the U. S. Klans in Texas did not have a State leader or Grand Dragon and the U. S. Klans have become badly disorganized. Tex

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS NEITHER RECOMMENDATIONS NOR CONCLUSIONS OF THE FBI. IT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE FBI AND IS LOANED TO YOUR AGENCY; IT AND ITS CONTENTS ARE NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED OUTSIDE YOUR AGENCY.



UNITED STATES

## Memorandum

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: 4/14/61

FROM : SAC, CHARLOTTE (100-9548)

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
INFORMATION CONCERNING -  
INTERNAL SECURITY

There is enclosed an article written by TED SHELTON, reporter, which appeared in the "Greenville News," Greenville, S. C., on 4/5/61, outlining the activities of one chapter of the society in Greenville, S. C., during the past six months and of a newly formed second chapter of the same society in Greenville, S. C., of which [redacted]

[redacted] is the leader. The leader of the original group was not disclosed, however, it quoted [redacted] JR., a local attorney, who is one of the leading citizens of this city, as being a volunteer coordinator of the society in this area, and active in the local chapter. [redacted] a member of the Greenville, S. C., City Council, was also quoted as being a member of the home chapter of the society in Belmont, Massachusetts.

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There is also enclosed a newspaper article which appeared in the "Greenville News," Greenville, S. C., 4/9/61, setting forth letters to the editor, written by [redacted] of Greenville, and [redacted] of Laurens, S. C., with reference to the Society.

No investigation or other local inquiries have been made with reference to these local chapters of the John Birch Society in accordance with existing Bureau instructions.

The Bureau will be furnished any additional information coming to Charlotte's attention regarding this matter.

- ② - Bureau (Enc. 2) (RM)  
2 - Charlotte (100-9548)  
JWC:mhs  
(4)

REC-62

15 APR 18 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/2/80 BY [redacted]b6  
b7C

members of subject organization

F B I

Date: 4/3/61

Transmit the following in \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIRMAIL - REGISTERED  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. Parsons	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Mr. W.C. Sullivan	
Tele. Room	
Mr. Ingram	
Miss Gandy	

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI (62-104401)  
 FROM: SAC, LOS ANGELES (100-59001)  
 SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
 INFORMATION CONCERNING  
 Remytel 4/2/61.

Attached herewith are clippings of [redacted] article  
 in "Los Angeles Examiner" 4/1/61 and article, same issue,  
 setting forth remarks of Representatives Hiestand and Rousselot  
 re captioned group.

P  
 ③ - Bureau (Encl. 2) (AIRMAIL) (REGISTERED)  
 1 - Los Angeles

TWC:DRU  
 (4)

b6  
 b7C

EX-114

REC-73

62-104401-1069

APR 4 1961

Approved: WSS  
 Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_ M Per \_\_\_\_\_

56 APR 21 1961

F B I

Date: 4/6/61

Transmit the following in PLAIN TEXT  
(Type in plain text or code)Via AIRTEL AIR MAIL  
(Priority or Method of Mailing)

TO: DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM: SAC, DALLAS (94-0)

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

John Birch Society

RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)

Transmitted herewith is letter received at RA, Amarillo, Texas, addressed to Federal Bureau of Investigation, Amarillo, Texas.

For information Bureau, [REDACTED] has long been known to SA's working the Amarillo area. He was for many years [REDACTED] Amarillo, Texas. About two years ago, he left this position and now teaches piano and organ in his home at the above address. [REDACTED]

In view of his statement that he is member of the John Birch Society and in view of recent description of this organization in SAC letter as "an irresponsible organization", the Bureau may desire to handle this correspondence with caution.

LYNUM

REC-85

3- Bureau (Enc. 1)  
2- Dallas (1- 94-0)  
1- 100-10402)

WRJ/wvm  
(5)

19 APR 8 1961

ENCLOSURE

C C Wick

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Agent in Charge

Sent \_\_\_\_\_

M

Per \_\_\_\_\_

b6  
b7Cb6  
b7C

62-104401-1085

**CHANGED TO**

62-107853-X1

MAY 4 1962mt/rwcALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 12-2-81 BY [redacted]b6  
b7c

c

FROM  
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
to  
Official indicated below by check mark

Mr. Tolson  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Casper  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. Felt  
Mr. Gale  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Sullivan  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Mr. Tele. Room  
Miss Gandy

Attorney General .....  
Deputy Attorney General .....  
First Assistant Deputy Attorney General .....  
Executive Office For U. S. Attorneys .....  
Executive Office For U. S. Marshals .....  
Solicitor General .....  
Executive Assistant to the Attorney General .....  
Assistant Attorney General, Antitrust .....  
Assistant Attorney General, Tax .....  
Assistant Attorney General, Civil .....  
Assistant Attorney General, Lands .....  
Assistant Attorney General, Criminal .....  
Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legal Counsel ....  
Assistant Attorney General, Internal Security .....  
Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights .....  
Administrative Assistant Attorney General .....  
Budget and Accounts Office .....  
Records Administration Office .....  
Personnel Office .....  
Administrative Services Office .....  
Supplies and Printing Section .....  
Transcription Section .....  
Director, FBI .....  
Assistant to the Director - Room 5640 .....  
Director of Prisons .....  
Director, Office of Alien Property .....  
Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization .....  
Pardon Attorney .....  
Parole Board .....  
Board of Immigration Appeals .....  
Librarian .....

MEMORANDUM

*John B. ...*  
*62-104900*  
*John B. ...*  
*FYI*  
*62-104900 1086*

ENCLOSURE 51 APR 25 1961

DIRECTOR  
4-5-61

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : The Director

DATE: April 4, 1961

FROM : N. P. Callahan

SUBJECT: The Congressional Record

Pages A2300-A2306. Senator McGee, (D) Wyoming, requested to have printed in the Record an editorial entitled "Birching the Birchites," published in the Washington Post of April 2, 1961. The editorial states "we think that the best remedy is the commonsense of the American people in detecting spurious political proscriptions. It is true that groups like the John Birch Society could acquire a more sinister significance in the case of a major debacle in U. S. foreign policy. - - - But the proper offset is continued exposure. We do not think that Mr. Welch's doctrines can survive this examination—even in the balmy season."

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11/18/88 BY [redacted]

Original filed in: 66-1731-1137

b6  
b7c

162-104401 -

NOT RECORDED  
102 APR 13 1961

In the original of a memorandum captioned and dated as above, the Congressional Record for April 3, 1961 was reviewed and pertinent items were marked for the Director's attention. This form has been prepared in order that portions of a copy of the original memorandum may be clipped, mounted, and placed in appropriate Bureau case or subject matter files.

58 APR 18 1961

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : The Director

DATE: 3/31/61

FROM : N. P. Callahan

SUBJECT: The Congressional Record

## SENATE

Pages 5889-5894. Senator Dodd, (D) Connecticut, spoke concerning attitudes regarding the Communist menace. Mr. Dodd pointed out "there have always been naive or stiffheaded people, ultra-liberals who refuse to believe that communism can be all evil; - - - who are not pro-Communist, but react with far greater emotion against every manifestation of anticommunism than they ever seem capable of displaying against communism. At the other extreme, there are those who are sincerely anti-Communist but who believe that everyone who disagrees with them is either a Communist or a dup of the Communists, that every political figure who has been guilty of an error in judgment or a policy that failed, is ipso facto, a member of the Communist conspiracy." Mr. Dodd makes reference to the John Birch Society. He commended the press for bringing the actions of this Society to public attention. Senator Hatch, (R) California, praised Mr. Dodd for his remarks and stated "There are many good but mistaken people who belong to the John Birch Society, but there are some others who are neither good nor mistaken, and they are its leaders."

Original filed in: 66-104401-11

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-18-80 BY [redacted]

57 APR 18 1961

162-104401-  
NOT RECORDED  
191 APR 18 1961

In the original of a memorandum captioned and dated as above, the Congressional Record for 3/30/61 was reviewed and pertinent items were marked for the Director's attention. This form has been prepared in order that portions of a copy of the original memorandum may be clipped, mounted, and placed in appropriate Bureau case or subject matter files.

b6  
b7c

UNITED STATES

NT

# Memorandum

ST  
John  
TO : The Director

DATE: MARCH 30, 1961

FROM : N. P. Callahan

SUBJECT: The Congressional Record

Pages 4804-4805. Senator McGee, (D) Wyoming, requested to have printed in the Record an article from the Washington Daily News of March 29, 1961, entitled "Reds Everywhere: John Birch Founder Would Repeal the 20th Century," written by [redacted] This article deals with the methods used by Robert Welch, founder of the John Birch Society, in fighting communism.

Original filed in: 66-1731-1731

b6  
b7C

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-1-86 BY [redacted]

62-104401-  
NOT RECORDED  
102 APR 24 1961

In the original of a memorandum captioned and dated as above, the Congressional Record for MARCH 29, 1961 was reviewed and pertinent items were marked for the Director's attention. This form has been prepared in order that portions of a copy of the original memorandum may be clipped, mounted, and placed in appropriate Bureau case or subject matter files.

51 APR 19 1961



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : The Director

DATE: MARCH 23, 1961

FROM : N. P. Callahan

SUBJECT: The Congressional Record

ST  
phw

Pages 4332-4335. Congressman Rivers, (D) South Carolina, spoke in support of the John Birch Society. Mr. Rivers commented on an article in Time magazine which spoke against the Society. Mr. Rivers made an answer to the Time magazine article by [redacted] over radio station WREB, Washington, on March 19, 1961. We also included the names of the council members and the committee of endorsers of the John Birch Society.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-1-80 BY [redacted]

162-104401-  
NOT RECORDED  
102 APR 17 1961

Original filed in: 66-1731-1933

b6  
b7C

In the original of a memorandum captioned and dated as above, the Congressional Record for MARCH 22, 1961 was reviewed and pertinent items were marked for the Director's attention. This form has been prepared in order that portions of a copy of the original memorandum may be clipped, mounted, and placed in appropriate Bureau case or subject matter files.

55 APR 19 1961

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

# Memorandum

TO : The Director

DATE: April 4, 1961

FROM : N. P. Callahan

SUBJECT: The Congressional Record

Pages 5097-5098. Senator Young, (D) Ohio, spoke concerning the John Birch Society. He stated "I commend three of my distinguished colleagues for bringing to the attention of the Senate, and the public, ugly facts concerning the fake patriots controlling the John Birch Society. - - - I join them in their contempt for leaders of this vicious organization." The three commended by Mr. Young were Senators Young, (R) North Dakota; Eichel, (R) California; and Dodd, (D) Connecticut. Mr. Young went on to state "I wish to point out that the

director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, J. Edgar Hoover, only last week warned against vigilante action in the fight against communism. He said: The job of curtailing and containing communism is one for legally constituted authorities with the steadfast cooperation of every loyal citizen."

Original filed in: 66-1731-1932

62-104401-  
NOT RECORDED  
102 APR 13 1961

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-9-86 BY [redacted]

b6  
b7c

In the original of a memorandum captioned and dated as above, the Congressional Record for April 3, 1961 was reviewed and pertinent items were marked for the Director's attention. This form has been prepared in order that portions of a copy of the original memorandum may be clipped, mounted, and placed in appropriate Bureau case or subject matter files.

58 APR 10 1961

RA  
REC-9  
EX-132

62-104401-1088

April 11, 1961

*Baughman*  
*Sing*

Honorable Glenard P. Lipscomb  
House of Representatives  
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Congressman:

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 9-3-96 BY [redacted]

Your letter of April 6, 1961, with enclosure,  
has been received, and I do appreciate the concern which  
prompted Miss [redacted] to write.

You are aware, I am sure, that the FBI, as  
an investigative agency of the Federal Government, does  
not furnish evaluations or comments regarding the character  
or integrity of any individual, publication or organization.  
From this, I hope that Miss Whitfield will not infer either that  
we do or do not have data in our files relating to the subject  
of her letter.

I am unable to make any recommendations  
with respect to groups which she may join to fight communism;  
however, I am enclosing several items which may be of  
assistance to her in this regard.

MAILED 31  
APR 12 1961  
COMM-FBI

Sincerely yours,

J. Edgar Hoover

*J. Edgar Hoover*

*Dech*  
*6/2/61*  
*J. S.*

Enclosures (5)

Communist Illusion and Democratic Reality

April 1, 1961, *Wash Post* Introduction

Communist Target--Youth

One Nation's Response to Youth

Series from "Christianity Today"

NOTE: Bufiles contain no record of the organization the correspondent  
represents or any record identifiable with her. Congressman Lipscomb  
(Continued next page)

51 APR 19 1961

JWO'B:lc (4)

- Tolson
- Parsons
- Walters
- Belmont
- Callahan
- Conrad
- DeLoach
- Evans
- Malone
- Rosen
- Sullivan
- Tavel
- Trotter
- Tele. Room
- Holmes
- Gandy

REC'D-READING ROOM  
APR 11 4 19 PM '61

b6  
b7C

Honorable Glenard P. Lipscomb

NOTE: (continued)

has contacted the Bureau from time to time on matters of mutual interest and we have had cordial correspondence with him. He is a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee.

The John Birch Society was founded in 12/58 in Indianapolis, Indiana, by Robert H. Welch, Jr., of Belmont, Massachusetts. It is incorporated under laws of State of Massachusetts; is allegedly anticommunist; has chapters throughout the country; and has not been investigated by the Bureau. Welch and the Society in the past have been extremely critical of former President Eisenhower. (62-104401)

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C.

April 6, 1961

COMMITTEES:  
APPROPRIATIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
DEFENSE  
STATE, JUSTICE, JUDICIARY  
HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Wilson  
Mr. Parsons  
Mr. Mohr  
Mr. Belmont  
Mr. Callahan  
Mr. Conrad  
Mr. DeLoach  
Mr. Evans  
Mr. Malone  
Mr. Rosen  
Mr. Tavel  
Mr. Trotter  
Mr. W.C. Sullivan  
Tele. Room  
Mr. Ingram  
Miss Gandy

The Honorable J. Edgar Hoover  
Office of the Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington 25, D. C.

My dear Mr. Hoover:

I am enclosing a copy of a letter received from [redacted] a resident of the Congressional District I represent, who is Corresponding Secretary for the Junior Women of the Twentieth Century Club, Hermosa and Colorado, Los Angeles 41, California.

This letter is from what I believe is a very responsible group. I am not requesting comment concerning the statements or questions in regard to the John Birch Society or the films mentioned in the letter. I would however appreciate having the benefit of such comment as you might be able to make in response to the last question in the letter, which I may use in my reply to Miss Whitfield.

Sincerely yours,

Glenard P. Lipscomb  
Member of Congress

ENCLOSURE ATTACHED

GPL:mmm  
Enclosure

ENCLOSURE

REC-91

62-104401-1088

EX-132

APR 17 1961

APR 7 1961

b6  
b7c

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. A. H. Belmont

DATE: March 31, 1961

FROM : Mr. F. J. Baumgardner

SUBJECT: JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY  
INFORMATION CONCERNING  
(INTERNAL SECURITY)ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-28-84 BY [redacted]

Tolson ☒

Parsons ☐

Mohr ☐

Belmont ☐

Callahan ☐

Conrad ☐

DeLoach ☐

Evans ☐

Malone ☐

Rosen ☐

Sullivan ☐

Tavel ☐

Trotter ☐

Tele. Room ☐

Ingram ☐

Gandy ☐

This memorandum is prepared pursuant to the request of the Director for a memorandum on the John Birch Society (JBS).

b6  
b7c

The JBS was organized in Indianapolis, Indiana, in 12/58 by Robert H. Welch, Jr., a wealthy candy manufacturer of Belmont, Massachusetts, in order to further Welch's anticommunist campaign. It was incorporated on 12/23/58 as a nonprofit business organization under the laws of the State of Massachusetts. The aims and purposes of the organization were listed as to promote civic interest in national and international affairs by an educational program and the collection and dissemination of literature for educational purposes. Welch has characterized the long-range objective of the JBS as "less government, more responsibility and a better world." It has been noted from newspaper articles written about Welch and the Society that Welch is absolute boss of it and Welch has been quoted as saying the Society must be run by a "hard-boiled, dictatorial and dynamic boss." Also, according to newspaper accounts, JBS at the start of 1961 had chapters in approximately 35 states with a recent estimate that JBS might have 100,000 members by the end of 1961. The most pronounced activity on the part of Welch and the Society in his anticommunist campaign have been charges of high Government officials being communists, including former President Eisenhower. The most recent activity in this regard has been the calling for the impeachment of Chief Justice Earl Warren of the United States Supreme Court. Probably the best description of Welch's recklessness and the tactics used by him is seen in the statement of Spruille Braden, the former United States Ambassador and a member of the Society's council, as quoted in an article on the Society which appeared on page six of the 3/30/61 issue of "New York Journal-American." In this article Braden stated he did not agree with Welch's charge against President Eisenhower; that Welch may exaggerate sometimes; but "When you're in a barroom brawl, no holds are barred. You don't fight by the Marquis of Queensberry rules."

62-104401  
Enclosure

- 1 - Mr. Parsons  
1 - Mr. Belmont  
1 - Mr. Baumgardner  
1 - Mr. [unclear]

JHK:mar  
(5)

REC-73

APR 19 1961

EX-112

INT. SEC.

Copy to Mr Tolson  
WSH

58 APR 10 1961

Memo to Mr. Belmont  
Re: John Birch Society  
62-104401

We have never investigated JBS nor Welch. We have furnished background information to the field concerning Welch and JBS by SAC Letters 59-13 (F) dated 3/10/59 and 60-5 (C) dated 1/26/60. The field was instructed to be alert for the formation of chapters of JBS; that the Bureau was particularly interested in efforts by subversive elements to take over or use JBS or its chapters; and that no investigation should be conducted. As a result of the information received from the Los Angeles Office that a member of the chapter of JBS in Santa Barbara, California, had ordered a printing of 10,000 copies of the Bureau's poster on communism with the statement printed thereon that they were printed and distributed by JBS, we alerted the field by SAC Letter 61-14 (D) dated 3/21/61 of this matter and instructed that members of JBS no longer would be furnished copies of Bureau literature on the subject of communism.

While we have not investigated Welch or JBS we have had the Boston Office check public source material such as incorporation records, credit records, et cetera, for background data concerning Welch and the Society.

By memorandum from Assistant Attorney General J. Walter Yeagley dated 8/30/60, Yeagley referred to a newspaper account concerning JBS; advised that the Department's records contain no Bureau reports on either JBS or Welch; requested the Bureau to conduct an investigation of JBS pursuant to Executive Order 10450; and requested copies of reports of such investigation. By memorandum dated 9/8/60 we forwarded to Yeagley photostats of previous memoranda which we had furnished the Attorney General regarding Welch and the Society; advised that no information had been received by this Bureau indicating any subversive elements in the Society; and stated that no investigation of the Society would be conducted unless a subsequent request was received from the Department in view of the information which we were furnishing in the enclosure to our memorandum. To date no subsequent request has been received from the Department for an investigation of Welch or the Society.

JBS is probably one of the most controversial organizations in the country today. This controversy stems from the allegations made by Welch and the Society concerning the ~~allegations~~ alluding to President Eisenhower being a communist; the allegations that there are communists in other high Government positions; and calling for the

Memo to Mr. Belmont  
Re: John Birch Society  
62-104401

impeachment of Chief Justice Warren. This controversy has led to many attacks on Welch and the Society through the newspapers and in congressional circles, while at the same time other newspapers and some congressional members have defended Welch and the Society. However, to date this controversy has been confined to the issue of Welch and the Society and not to the issue of Chief Justice Warren's impeachment, at least in congressional circles.

This controversy slowly gathered momentum until it appears to have reached its peak within the past couple days when some congressmen and senators have denounced Welch and the Society while others have backed Welch and the Society. Both the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee (SISS) and the House Committee on Un-American Activities (HCUA) have been requested to hold hearings concerning the Society. Senator Thomas J. Dodd, Vice Chairman of SISS, has denounced the Society and Welch's attack on President Eisenhower and on 3/31/61 stated he would bring up the possibility of investigating the Society at the Subcommittee's next meeting. Congressman Francis Walter, Chairman of the HCUA, has stated that the HCUA has received many letters of complaints about the Society but none contain material information indicating HCUA could or should launch an investigation. Walter has further stated that it is not the function of HCUA to serve as a sounding board either for an organization against individuals or for individuals against an organization. In addition Senator John L. McClellan, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Government Operations, stated on 3/31/61 that his committee has no plans to investigate the Society because his committee has no jurisdiction to do so.

Outside of congressional circles the main "boiling pot" of this controversy appears to be in the State of California where Governor Edmund Brown has ordered a probe of the Society and has called the Society a "fanatic group of the extreme right." It is noted that the Society has been extremely active in California and has created a storm in both church and educational circles. In addition to the California Governor's probe of the Society, a June hearing has been set by the State Senate Un-American Activities Committee at which Welch will be asked to testify. According to an article which appeared concerning the Society in the 3/29/61 issue of the "New York Journal-American," page two, the California Assembly Rules Committee was to vote on 3/30/61 on a resolution concerning a nationwide investigation of the Society by United States Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy.



Memo to Mr. Belmont  
Re: John Birch Society  
62-104401

According to the attached "Washington Capital News Service" release of 3/31/61, a Department of Justice spokesman stated that the growing number of inquiries which the Department has received about the Society has made it a matter of concern to the Attorney General but the spokesman refused to say whether the Department is investigating the Society.

ACTION:

None. For the Director's information.

*JHK* *gd* *Q* *OP* *ESP* *✓ for info*

62-104401-1093

**CHANGED TO**

62-107853-X2

MAY 4 1962

mt / we

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 11-3-86 BY [redacted]

b6  
b7c

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

## Memorandum

TO : Mr. DeLoach *DeLoach*

DATE: April 12, 1961

FROM : D. C. Morrell *DM*SUBJECT: 

Tolson	_____
Parsons	_____
Mohr	_____
Belmont	_____
Callahan	_____
Conrad	_____
DeLoach	_____
Evans	_____
Malone	_____
Rosen	_____
Tavel	_____
Trotter	_____
W.C. Sullivan	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Ingram	_____
Gandy	_____

By letter of April 2, 1961, the above-captioned individual advised that he is not a member of the John Birch Society nor does he subscribe to the "Los Angeles Examiner." It is noted that he enclosed a copy of an article from the April 1, 1961, issue of the "Los Angeles Examiner" by  which contains reference to the Director's 4-1-61 Introduction to the Law Enforcement Bulletin on Vigilante action.

suggests that all members of the FBI infiltrate the society and send \$24 to Robert Welch of the John Birch Society, apparently for membership dues.  also suggests that his address be kept secret.

RECOMMENDATION:

No acknowledgement be made of this communication.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-28-86 BY

*bew*  
JMM:bew (3)

REC-73

EX-73

25 APR 17 1961

CORRESPONDENCE

51 APR 21 1961

b6  
b7c

62-104401-1094

DIRECTOR, FBI

April 4, 1961

SAC, DETROIT (80-799)

CHANGED

MISS [REDACTED]

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED  
DATE 4-4-83 BY [REDACTED]

RESEARCH (CORRESPONDENCE AND TOURS)

Re Bureau airtel to Detroit, 3/22/61, captioned  
"MISS [REDACTED]"

The title is marked changed to set forth the first  
name of the Subject as [REDACTED]

Captioned individual is the owner-operator of the  
[REDACTED] located in connection with  
her residence at [REDACTED]

On January 11, 1961, Captain [REDACTED] (NA),  
(protect), Flint, Michigan, Police Department, advised  
SA [REDACTED] of the names and identities of those  
persons known to him who are members of the John Birch Society  
in Flint, (Bufile 62-104401; Detroit file 100-27934).  
Included among these names was captioned person. According  
to Captain [REDACTED] Miss [REDACTED] is physically incapacitated  
with a congenital bone anomaly, which has affected her entire  
bone structure and perhaps her mental capacities. During the  
last approximate year she has been active in the Cardinal  
Mindzenti Society activities in this area. She is also a  
member of the Flint Conservative Club. She professes to be  
an avid anti-Communist and at her own expense has distributed  
anti-Communist literature as a representative of one or all  
of the above mentioned groups.

RUC

4 - Bureau (RM)

(1 - 100- Cardinal Mindzenti Society)  
(1 - 62-104407 - John Birch Society)  
(2 - 100- Miss [REDACTED])

4 - Detroit

(1 - 100-27934 John Birch Society)  
(1 - 100-0 Cardinal Mindzenti Society)  
(1 - [REDACTED])

RLG:maj

(8)

NOT RECORDED

100 APR 25 1961

50 APR 27 1961

b6  
b7C  
b7D

ORIGINAL COPY FILED IN 100-27934

b6  
b7C  
b7D

On March 13, 1961, Mrs. [redacted] Secretary, AC Spark Plug Division, General Motors Corporation, Flint, likewise a member of the John Birch Society and the Cardinal Mindzenti Society (see Detroit letter to Bureau dated December 2, 1960, captioned [redacted] SM-C; Bufile 100-371448; Detroit file 100-18676), telephonically contacted SA [redacted] stating that Miss [redacted] had made the statement at a recent Cardinal Mindzenti Society meeting that someone had called the FBI and was advised that the Patrick Henry League is a subversive organization and has been so cited by the Attorney General of the United States. Mrs. [redacted] was advised that the FBI does not make such statements and that no Agent had made such a statement at Flint. b6 b7C

Later that same day, Mrs. [redacted] again called and advised that by rechecking with [redacted] she had learned the following: [redacted] heard the statement about the Patrick Henry League, while at the home of [redacted]

[redacted] works with one [redacted] of [redacted] at the [redacted] [redacted] had told [redacted] that he had "heard or read somewhere that the Patrick Henry League was a subversive organization".

Mrs. [redacted] stated that upon learning of this source, she contacted Mr. [redacted]. He stated that after making the statement about the Patrick Henry League he had checked with a source that he did not identify and ascertained that he had been wrong in his evaluation of the Patrick Henry League. He indicated that his original statement had been based on something that he had heard from or read as written by HERBERT PHILBRICK. He did not say that he had contacted the FBI although he indicated that someone may have thought that he did.

On March 27, 1961, SA [redacted] and SA [redacted] contacted Miss [redacted]. Her letter to the Director was orally acknowledged. She immediately stated that she had been too hasty in writing such a letter as she and a Mrs. [redacted] had later ascertained that the person who had said that the Patrick Henry League is or was subversive had not received his information from the FBI. b6 b7C

It is noted that Miss [ ] was not and is not aware that the Special Agents contacting her had a copy of the letter she sent to the Director. She advised the Agents that her letter specifically stated that it was not she who had been advised by the FBI that the Patrick Henry League was subversive and she had pointed out in her letter that she did not know of her own knowledge that the FBI had said such a thing.

She was advised that the FBI is strictly an investigative agency of the Federal Government and does not furnish evaluations or comments concerning the character or integrity of any individual, publication or organization.

She stated that she realizes this as these same points have been stated on several occasions by Mrs. [ ]

[ ] who is a study group leader in the Cardinal Mindzenti Society.

In conclusion, Miss [ ] expressed her admiration for the Director and the work of the FBI, stating that she wants only to assist in any way possible in the difficult tasks facing the Bureau.

Since a contact with [ ] by Bureau Agents at this time could likely be misconstrued, UACB, no further action will be taken in this matter at this time.

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b7C  
b7D